



Українська Католицька Парафія
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.*

19 Серпень, 2012

Volume 57 No. 34

August 19, 2012

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Служби Божі / Divine Liturgies

В Неділю / Sunday

8:30 am recited – Bilingual

10:30 am sung – Ukrainian

У Свята / Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня / Daily Scheduled

7:30 am Matins/Утреня in chapel

8:25 am in church

First Friday - 8:25 am Divine Liturgy followed by
Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or
Mother of God

Сповіді починаючи десять хвилин перед
Службою Божою

Confessions begin ten minutes before the Divine
Liturgy or by appointment

Baptism by appointment - membership in Parish is
required

Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish is
required

Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office

**oo. Василяни / Basilian Fathers: serving in
this Parish**

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM
Bishop Emeritus

12-а Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа

Неділя по Успінні Пресв. Владичиці



*Twelveth Sunday after Pentecost
And
Post Feast of Dormition*

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Do not park in the
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's
Gardens when you come for the Sunday
Divine Liturgy. Your car will be towed.**

Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Серпень

Загальний намір: "Щоб в'язнів завжди трактували справедливо і з пошаною до їхньої людської гідності".

Місійний намір: "Щоб молоді люди, які покликані іти за Христом, бажали проповідувати і свідчити Євангелію до країв землі".

- Тропарі і читання в зеленій книжці на стор. 7 і 8.

- Кава і солодке Сьогодні після Служби Божої о год 8:30 і 10:30 рано, у вітальні під церквою.

Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможемо, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.

Сьогодні, Неділя, 19 Серпень:

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Просимо всіх Парафіян приносити продукти для потребуючих, які не псуються (non-perishable) в першу і третю неділю кожного місяця. Просимо допомагати!

Неділя, 26 Серпень:

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Середа, 29 Серпень: Усікновення Голови Івана Хрестителя (піст)

- Служба Божа о год. 8:25 рано.

Неділя, 2 Серпень:

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

П'ятниця, 7 вересня: Перша П'ятниця

- 8:30 ранку – Служба Божа а від так Молебень до Серця Христового.

Субота, 8 вересня:

- 9:30 ранку Сходина Л.У.К.Ж.К. піchnуться молебнем до Пречистої Диви Марії а відтак засідання у вітальні під церквою.

Неділя, 9 вересня

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

- **Річний Парафіяльний Пікнік** почнеться о год. 12-ій полудня. Наші сусіди і співхристияни – наші Корейці також будуть брати участь. На обід буде подаватися: Корейські страви, "Гамбургер" і "Гот дог", ярина і напитки, і морожене на десерт. Для розваги будуть різні гри для молоді і дітей. Пожертви вільні.

Понеділок, 17 вересня: – 7:00 вечора Сходина Парафія льної Ради у Борд Румі.

August 19, 2012

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost and Post Feast of Dormition

Papal General Prayer Intention for August: "Pray that prisoners may be treated with justice and respect for their human dignity."

Mission Intention for August: "Pray that young people, called to follow Christ, may be willing to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel to the ends of the earth."

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the green booklet pages: 7 & 8.

- Coffee and sweets are available today following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Room. All guests and parishioners are invited.

A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pews clean and neat. Thank you.

TODAY, Sunday, August 19:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, August 26:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Wednesday, August 29: Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist.

- **We abstain from eating meat this day -**

- Divine Liturgy - 8:25 am.

Saturday, September 1: Beginning of the Church New Year

- **10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with our Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, of the Ukrainian Catholic Church**, to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr. Following the Divine Liturgy the Banquet will begin at 12 noon in the Parish Cultural Centre. Advance tickets for \$60.00/each for which a \$30.00 tax receipt will be issued. **Tickets MUST be purchased BY AUGUST 25.** Call: St. Mary's Parish office - 604.879.5830, or Mrs. Pat Sorochuk - 604.433.0661 or Dr. Michael Myckatyn

Sunday, September 2:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Friday, September 7: First Friday

- 8:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Moleben to the Sacred Heart.

Saturday, September 8: UCWLC Meeting begins at 9:30 am with Moleben to the Mother of God followed by the monthly meeting in the Fellowship Room.

Sunday, September 9:

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

- **Annual Parish Picnic begins at 12 noon. Our neighbours and fellow Christians - the Korean Community within our Parish are also invited.** The meal will consist of Korean foods, Hamburgers and Hot dogs with all the trimmings, Lettuce salad, Potato salad, vegetables, coffee, tea and juices and ice cream for dessert. For entertainment, we have invited "Scruffles" the balloon maker, Pony rides for the young and games for the children of all ages. A donation for the meal will be accepted.

Monday, September 17: - 7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting in the Board Room.

Food Bank Donations: We encourage all parishioners to contribute to the Food Bank on the first and third Sundays of every month. PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT.

Це пригадка для всіх вірних. Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

Церковна Етика: Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS: Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

Church Etiquette: Be aware that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must receive the Final Blessing before leaving the Church Service. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church before, during or after the service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations – leave the Church proper (the Nave) for those that want to pray.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and Merciful God, Inspire those You have chosen To hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.

Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan

Andrey: Our Lord Jesus Christ, You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with special gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the saints in heaven, and in many cases You grant them the recognition of sanctity by Your Church here on earth. We humbly pray: grant that Your faithful servant Metropolitan Andrey be numbered among the saints. Throughout his just life, “full of suffering and trials,” he was a good shepherd for his flock and a great labourer for Christian unity. And through his beatification and intercession, grant our entire people the great gift of unity and love. Amen.

www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca



Request for Prayers: to pray for you, your family member, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office by phone 604.879.5830 or by written note on the collection plate.

Пам'ятайте помолитися: за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: your family; your fellow parishioners; especially the shut-ins or those in the hospital; those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

Please remember in your prayers especially: Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM; Fr. Steven Basarab, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Victoria Kuzik, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasył Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow, and the Canadian Armed Forces on peacekeeping missions.

PLEASE VISIT our Parishioners or phone those that are confined to their hospital beds or their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

If there are Parishioners that you visit and we are not listing them for others to pray for them, please call the Parish office with that information, or to request father to visit them.

Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR – August 20 – 27, 2012

Look at our new website! Camp St. Volodymyr has been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna, campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$260 before July 12 and \$310 after. Third and fourth child from same family – \$150 each. The deadline for registering is Thursday, July 26. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at www.nweparchy.ca.

Bus transportation is available from New Westminster.

For further information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 or jennsawka@hotmail.com or Father Andriy 250.860.7295. Register early. Space is limited!

Support our Camp! Donations are always greatly appreciated. We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.

Volunteer Help preparing for: Major Archbishop's Visit - September 1, 2012

You may still volunteered to help one of the various committees to help prepare for and clean up after in the different facilities. Please call the coordinator to make the arrangements necessary. Coordinators can ask others

to help or accept your offer of service for the place and event. For all other places and needs please call: Father Josaphat in the Parish Office.

First and for most we need everyone praying that the Lord provide the weather that is best suited for the occasion: "We would prefer a sunny day".

1. The Grounds – clean up, weeding, trimming

Coordinator: Gerry Ukrainetz - (604) 291-0087

(grass cutting - Jennifer and Peter Sawka)

2. Recreation Centre – All Clergy vesting and removal of vestments

Coordinator: Gerry Ukrainetz - (604) 291-0087

- **Friday (evening) set up:** Coat Racks, tables, chairs, water

Volunteers: Nicholas & Rea Ukrainetz, Charles & Tamara Ukrainetz

- **Saturday** - light refreshments after

- **Saturday** - 2 persons for security - before/during / after

- **Saturday** - 2 persons to assist with guiding ecumenical guests to church seats and assist the vesting clergy.

- **Saturday** - helpers to clear things away after service

3. Hall and Kitchen – Banquet in main - Hall Buffet style

Coordinator: Irene Sliziak (604) 255-4408

- **Friday (afternoon and maybe evening):** set Banquet Hall table settings and decorations:

Coordinators: Nadia Smigel and Barbara Ballhorn

Assistants: Steffie Doroseiwich, Pat Zylich

- **Saturday** - ticket takers - Beverly Pacholko and Adam Kozak

- **Saturday** - greeters to assist with seating special guests - Carol Woznow and Theresa Pacholko

- **Saturday** - buffet table servers - See Irene Sliziak

- **Saturday** - coffee servers - See Irene Sliziak

- **Saturday** - to clear tables and clean up - See Irene Sliziak

Volunteers: Orest Kernycky, Pam Morgan, Richard Toporowski,

- **Saturday** - dishwashers - See Irene Sliziak

Volunteers: the regular helpers who spoke to Irene plus Greg and Evelyn Kozoriz

4. Church Fellowship Room – K of C vesting and removal of vestments

- **Friday (afternoon)** set up Coat Racks, tables, chairs, water

Coordinator: ?? -

- **Saturday** - security - before/during/after and assist with food and pop

Coordinators: Stephie Toporoski and Helena Galas

- **Saturday** - helpers to clear things away after service

4. Church

At least two weeks before:

- **clean kneelers** - Susan Lazaruk and Tracy Moir (604) 321-9436

- **polish all brass** railings and door handles -

Friday afternoon: set up chairs in Sanctuary

Coordinator: Bogdan Karpinski (604) 728-6534

Volunteers: Andrew Karpinski,

Saturday Parking from 8:30 am to 10:30 am - need at least two (2) Parking attendants:

Saturday Procession begins at 9:30 am

- 10 persons to carry Banners: Theresa Pacholko, Mary Evans, Carol Actemichuk, Anastasia Messerli, Maureen Messerli, Rose Pacholko, need four (4) more

- **Saturday - 8 ushers:** John Melnyk, ??, Barbara Ballhorn, Kay Jeske, Bill Kochan, Maureen Messerli, Nadia Smigel, Fred Sorochnik,

- **Saturday** - helpers to straighten up church after service

**PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE EPARCHY OF
NEW WESTMINSTER**

His Beatitude Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk – is the highest ranking Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He resides in Kyiv, Ukraine. His visit comes during a very special year: while we are commemorating the centennial of the appointment of Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr, as the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for all of Canada. Everyone is invited to participate in the public events during His Beatitude's visit either in New Westminster, Vancouver or Kelowna:

31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2012

Friday, August 31st

6:30 PM Moleben at Holy Eucharist Cathedral, 501–4th Avenue, New Westminster, BC, to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Eucharist Parish. The Moleben is open to the public. Advance tickets are needed for the reception to follow. Call the **Holy Eucharist Parish office 604.526.1261**

Saturday, September 1st

10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and officially welcome our Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Sviatoslav to the Eparchy. The Divine Liturgy is open to the public. No pass is required for admission.

Following the Divine Liturgy the Banquet will begin at 12 noon in the Parish Cultural Centre. Advance tickets are \$60.00/each. A \$30.00 tax receipt will be issued. **Tickets MUST be purchased BY AUGUST 25. Call: Mrs. Pat Sorochuk – 604.433.0661 or Dr. Michael Myckatyn or St. Mary's Parish office – 604.879.5830,**

Sunday, September 2nd

11:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Dormition of the Mother of God Parish – 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC. to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the first visit of our present Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. The Divine Liturgy is open to the public. Advance tickets for the Banquet can be purchased. **Call the Kelowna**

Parish office 250.860.7295

Peace starts with a smile.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

BAZAAR NEWS - PARISH BAZAAR - NOVEMBER 24, 2011

Наш Парафіяльний Базар зближається чим-раз ближче. Базаровий Комітет ласкаво просить Вас, якщо Ви приготуєте консерви цього літа, то просимо зробіть декілька "екстра" на наш Базар. Ваша поміч буде оцінена.

1. **The Bazaar "Preserves and Baking" Committee** is requesting any extra preserves that you will be making over the summer. Please bring as many as you can spare to the Auditorium kitchen on Tuesdays. They will be sold **at our Parish Bazaar**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
 2. **They are also** asking for **Home baking** such as brownies, breads and buns, pies, cakes, cinnamon buns, cookies and any other baking that does not include fillings such as cream or cheese or other dairy products.
 3. **The Bazaar "Silent Auction" Committee** is asking for **donations** of all things (ie: Hockey tickets, dinners for two, wine box, etc.) to be bid on **at the Silent Auction**. Please bring them as soon as possible to the Parish Office or place them in the "Silent Auction" box in the Church Fellowship Room.
 4. **The Bazaar "Paper Lottery" Committee** is asking for **donations of new items for the children and adult "Paper Lottery"**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
 5. **The Bazaar "Crafts" Committee** is asking for **items for the Crafts Corner**; such as small wooden ornaments or boards, knitting, home decorated aprons and other such useful items, and things for scrapbooking. Drop them off at the Fellowship Room.
 6. **The Bazaar "Rummage Sale" Committee** need items for the **Rummage Sale** such as clean slightly used clothing, clean kitchen utensils (pots and the like), household items (picture frames, ornaments and the like). Drop them off at the Fellowship Room. We will not accept used TVs, electronic devices, big living room furniture, or any other item that can carry unwanted creatures.
- For any other information call the Parish Office or Dr. Michael Myckatyn, Bazaar Chairperson, so that we can direct your call to the right person.

Bulletin Announcements must be in the office by Wednesday noon. It is your responsibility to notify the office, do not think that 'well they know', Father or the Secretary may know but do not always remember to put it in the bulletin!

Monthly Calendar Announcements for the next two months must be in the office by the 20th day of this month.

Note to All Parish Members: Please be on time for the Divine Liturgy. The Fathers are punctual and start on time at 8:30 am or start incensing at 10:25 a.m.

Be ready to start the Divine Liturgy when Father start and not try to play catch-up.



*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(St. Mary's)*

Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Basilian Fathers

550 West 14 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

V5Z 1P6

Telephone: 604-879-5830

e-mail: office@stmarysbc.com

We will be offering a **Parish Young Persons Catechism Program** on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m. and concluding 10:30 a.m. for children from ages 7 to 14 beginning October 7, 2017 and concluding in May 2013.

Classes for children 3 to 6 will continue to be offered during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy following the reading of the Gospel.

The Ukrainian Catholic Women's League – St. Mary's Branch, are the sponsors of this program.

Please hand in this form to the Parish office or the UCWLC Executive.

=====

I would like to register my child (Children) for the Parish Young Persons Catechism Program

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Parents (guardian) _____

Address: _____

City _____

Phone _____

Postal Code _____

THE UNITY OF PENTECOST OVERCOMES DIVISION AND ENMITY

Vatican City, 27 May 2012 (VIS) – This morning the Holy Father presided at Mass in the Vatican Basilica for the Solemnity of Pentecost, the liturgy was concelebrated by cardinals, archbishops and bishops present in Rome.

Benedict XVI focused his homily on an essential aspect of the mystery of Pentecost, which he said, is particularly important in our own times. "Pentecost is the feast of union, of human understanding and communion. Yet it is evident to everyone that in our world, although we are closer to one another than ever before thanks to the development of the communications media, ... understanding and communion among people is often superficial and difficult. Imbalances remain and not infrequently lead to conflict; dialogue among generations is problematic; ... we daily witness events which seem to show that mankind is becoming more aggressive and quarrelsome; understanding one another seems too arduous an undertaking, and we prefer to remain within ourselves and focus on our own our interests".

"Thanks to scientific and technological progress we have acquired the power to dominate the forces of nature, to manipulate the elements, to fabricate living beings, almost going so far as to fabricate human beings. In such a situation praying to God seems outmoded and useless, because we ourselves can construct and achieve anything we want". Yet "men are nursing a sense of diffidence (hesitancy), suspicion and reciprocal fear, to the extent that they have even become a danger to one another". We have greater power to communicate but, paradoxically, we understand one another less.

Harmony and unity "can only come with the gift of God's Spirit, which will give us a new heart and a new voice, a new ability to communicate. This is what happened at Pentecost. That morning ... the Holy Spirit descended on the gathering of the disciples. It rested upon each of them and set the divine fire alight within them, a fire of love with the power to transform. Their fear disappeared, in their hearts they felt a new strength, their tongues were loosened and they began to speak frankly so that everyone could understand the announcement of Jesus Christ, Who died and rose again. At Pentecost division and estrangement gave way to unity and understanding".

In today's Gospel Jesus, "speaking of the Holy Spirit, tells us what the Church is and how she must live in order to be ... a place of unity and communion in the Truth. He tells us that acting as Christians means not remaining closed in one's own self but being open to all things; it means welcoming the entire Church into our own lives or, better still, allowing her to welcome us in our hearts. ... Thus the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of unity and truth, can continue to resound in the hearts and minds of men, encouraging them to meet and accept one another".

The Holy Spirit leads us to understand the truth, which is Jesus, "but only if we are able to listen and to share, only in the 'us' of the Church and with an attitude of profound inner humility. ... When men wish to set themselves up as God, they only succeed in setting themselves against one other. On the other hand, when they abide in the truth of the Lord, they open themselves to the action of His spirit which sustains and unites them".

St. Paul tells us that the life of man is marked by an inner conflict between the impulses of the flesh and those of the spirit. The former are "the sins of selfishness and violence, such as enmity, discord, jealousy and dissension. ... They can lead us to

lose our lives. However, the Holy Spirit guides us to the pinnacle of God so that, already in this life, we may experience the seed of divine life, which is within us. St. Paul says, in fact, that 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace'".

In conclusion, the Pope exhorted the faithful to live "according to the Spirit of unity and truth. To this end we must pray that the Spirit may illuminate us, guiding us to overcome the lure of our own truths and to accept the truth of Christ, as transmitted by the Church".

FAITH INVITES US TO LOOK BEYOND APPEARANCES

Vatican City, 1 June 2012 (VIS) – "We must always learn from our heavenly Mother; her faith invites us to look beyond appearances and firmly to believe that our daily difficulties are, in fact, part of a springtime which has already begun with the risen Christ". Benedict XVI yesterday addressed these words to faithful gathered at the Grotto of Lourdes in the Vatican Gardens for the conclusion of the month of May, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

At 8 p.m. the traditional procession wound its way from the Church of St. Stephen of the Abyssinians to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, presided by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of the papal basilica of St. Peter's in the Vatican and vicar general of His Holiness for Vatican City. The Pope arrived at the Grotto at 9 p.m. where, before imparting his apostolic blessing, he made a brief address.

"This evening we wish to draw from Mary's Immaculate Heart with renewed trust, allowing ourselves to be imbued with her joy which had its most profound source in the Lord. Joy, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, is a fundamental distinguishing characteristic of Christians. It is founded on hope in God, it draws strength from incessant prayer and it enables us to face trials and suffering with serenity. As St. Paul reminds us: 'Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer'. These words of the Apostle are like an echo of Mary's 'Magnificat' and exhort us to reproduce, in our own selves and in our everyday lives, the sentiments of joy in the faith expressed in that Marian canticle".

In conclusion the Pope expressed his hope that, "at the end of this month of May, the spiritual joy which overflows from the grateful heart of Christ's Mother and ours, may become consolidated in our hearts, in our personal and family lives, in all places and especially in the life the family which, here in the Vatican, serves the universal Church".

LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE, RELYING ON GOD'S FIDELITY

Vatican City, 2 June 2012 (VIS) – At 10 a.m. today the Holy Father presided at the celebration of Terce in the Duomo of Milan, in the presence of priests, deacons, seminarians and religious of the local archdiocese. Following the recitation of the Psalms, Benedict XVI pronounced a meditation, extracts of which are given below:

"At this moment we are experiencing the mystery of the Church in its most exalted form, that of liturgical prayer. In ecclesial prayer our lips, our hearts and our minds, interpret the needs and longings of all humankind. ... The daily prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours is an essential task of the ordained ministry of the Church. It is also through the divine office, which prolongs the central mystery of the Eucharist throughout the day, that priests have a special bond to the Lord Jesus".

"What a precious gift the priesthood is! ... If Christ, to build His Church, delivers Himself into the hands of the priest, then the priest must in turn entrust himself to

Christ without reserve. Love for the Lord Jesus is both the soul of and the reason for priestly ministry. ... There is no contrast between the good of the priest's person and his mission, Quite the contrary, pastoral charity is a unifying element which, on the basis of an increasingly intimate rapport with Christ in prayer, enables us to experience the total gift of self for our flock. ... Each of our actions, in fact, has the aim of leading the faithful to union with the Lord, and of increasing ecclesial communion for the salvation of the world.

"One luminous sign of pastoral charity and an undivided heart is priestly celibacy and consecrated chastity. ... Without doubt, love for Jesus regards all Christians, but it acquires particular significance for the celibate priest and for those who have responded to the vocation to consecrated life. The source and model for repeating our daily 'yes' to God's will is only and always in Christ". In the Virgin Mary "we recognize that 'chaste and detached life, which Christ the Lord chose for Himself and which His Mother also embraced', a life full of obedience to the will of God".

"Dear consecrated brothers and sisters, ... look to the future with confidence, relying on God's fidelity and the power of His grace, which is always capable of working new miracles. ... At this time I wish to render thanks unto God for the many Ambrosian priests and religious who have spent their lives at the service of the Gospel, sometimes even unto the supreme sacrifice of their lives". Among these, the Holy Father made specific mention of the priests Luigi Talamoni, Luigi Biraghi, Luigi Monza, Carlo Gnocchi and Serafino Morazzone; the religious blesseds Giovanni Mazzucconi, Luigi Monti, Clemente Vismara, Maria Anna Sala and Enrichetta Alfieri.

"Through their joint intercession, we trustingly ask the Giver of all gifts to make the ministry of priests fruitful, and to strengthen the testimony of consecrated persons, so as to show the world the beauty of giving oneself to Christ and the Church, and to renew Christian families according to God's plan, that they may become places of grace and sanctity, a fertile terrain for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life".

CHRISTIAN MARRIED COUPLES: MESSENGERS OF THE BEAUTY OF LOVE

Vatican City, 23 July 2012 (VIS) – Benedict XVI invites Christian married couples to be "the sweet and smiling face of the Church" in a message sent to the eleventh international meeting of the "Equipes Notre Dame" Movement, currently being held in Brasilia, Brazil, on the theme: "Daring with the Gospel". The "Equipes Notre Dame" is a Movement, which promotes conjugal spirituality, was founded in 1939 by the French priest Fr. Henri Caffarel.

In the message, sent through Cardinal, Secretary of State, Tarcisio Bertone S.D.B., the Pope expresses the view that Christian married couples must be "the best and most convincing messengers of the beauty of a love supported and nourished by faith, a gift of God which is given to everyone abundantly and generously, so that day after day they can discover the meaning of their lives". The Holy Father also notes that the "Equipes Notre Dame" encourage members to avail themselves of the Sacraments, and to make simple concrete commitments such as "duty to sit down together"; that is, to dedicate time to interpersonal dialogue between the spouses.

"In our world, which is so deeply marked by individualism, activism, haste and distraction, sincere and constant dialogue between spouses is essential to avoid the emerge, development and degeneration of misunderstandings which, unfortunately, often lead to irreparable breaks which no one can then mend", the message concludes.